

DESCRIPTION OF TWO TRAP-DOOR SPIDERS FROM PRETORIA
(FEMALE OF ACANTHODON PRETORIAE POC. AND
STASIMOPUS ROBERTSI, N. Sp.).

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THE SUPPOSED FEMALE OF ACANTHODON PRETORIAE POC.

In the Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 7, 1, p. 319, Mr. Pocock described a single male trap-door spider from Pretoria under the name of *Acanthodon pretoriae*, and apparently the species has not been mentioned since. The recent addition to our collections of a very fine specimen of a female *Acanthodon* taken by Mr. Jenkins in the neighbourhood of his residence in Park Street (Pretoria) gives me an opportunity of describing what I believe to be the female of this species.

We have no male *Acanthodon* in the collection, but there is another female specimen of the same species from Villieria (a Pretoria suburb).

Colour.—Carapace pale-yellow translucent, the chelicerae and legs light brown, and the abdomen dull brown.

Carapace.—Equal in length to the patella, tibia, and half the metatarsus of the first leg; practically equal to the tibia and metatarsus of the fourth leg.

Eyes.—Width of ocular area slightly exceeding the length; distance between outer margins of the two frontal eyes appreciably less than between outer margins of the antero-median eyes of the posterior group, and this latter distance slightly less than that between the outer margins of the postero-median eyes; antero-median eyes of posterior group slightly more than a diameter apart, their distance from postero-lateral eyes of the same side two and a half to three times the diameter of the antero-median eye; distance between postero-median eyes slightly less than that between postero-median and postero-lateral of the same side.

Postero-median eyes considerably smaller than any of the others; frontal eyes looking obliquely forwards.

Legs.—Fourth the longest; third the shortest, its femur, patella, and tibia very stout; tibia of first leg armed below with about fifteen spines anteriorly and twenty-four posteriorly (including short as well as long spines); of second leg with about fourteen antero-ventral spines and ten postero-ventrally.

Metatarsus of first leg inferiorly with many (more than twenty) spines on the anterior side, and still more on the posterior side; of second leg similar, but fewer posteriorly.

Tarsi of legs one and two have strong spines antero-ventrally and postero-ventrally; tarsi of legs three and four have scattered bristly hairs, situated on the anterior portion only of the ventral surface. On the third leg, patella, tibia, and metatarsus have each many spines situated dorsally on the anterior surface. On the upper part of the posterior surface the patella has only a couple of spines, apically situated, and an odd one nearer the middle of its length, situated rather more ventrally; there are many

on the tibia, and about a dozen on the metatarsus, which also has about three or four bristly hairs on either side of the ventral surface, and there are a pair of such bristles at the distal end of the tibia ventrally.

On the fourth leg the spines are rather fewer and weaker: many short ones on the upper anterior surface of patella, a row of about a dozen on the upper anterior surface of the tibia, and a few scattered stiff hairs below. About a dozen spines on the lower portion of the anterior surface of the metatarsus; on the posterior surface of this leg spines are wanting.

Pedipalp.—Tibia and tarsus fringed on the anterior and posterior sides of their ventral surface with numerous strong spines.

Measurements (in millimetres).—Total length, 31·5; length of carapace, 10·5; of palp, 24; of first leg, 26·5; of second leg, 23; of third leg, 22·5; of fourth leg, 32·5; of metatarsus of first leg, 3·8; of metatarsus of fourth leg, 5·75.

The following description relates to a single male specimen of a trap-door spider, taken in the neighbourhood of Pretoria at Mountain View bridge, on the 11th June, 1910, by the Rev. Noel Roberts, who kindly presented the specimen to the Museum. It is probably a *Stasimopus*, allied to *S. nigellus* Poc, described from Vredefort Road, O.R.C. (A.M.N.H. 7.10.319), but the description of this latter species is rather meagre. The specimen cannot be matched in the Museum collection, and the female is quite unknown.

STASIMOPUS ROBERTSI, N. Sp.

MALE.

Colour.—Carapace and chelicerae black, the abdomen fuscous, excepting ventrally on the genital segment and lung opercula, where it is yellow; sternum brown, darker anteriorly and at the sides; pedipalps and legs black, excepting the tarsi and the greater portion of the length of the metatarsi (tibia in pedipalp), which are reddish; also the ventral surfaces of the coxae, especially the posterior ones, are brown.

Carapace.—Reticulately rugose in its posterior half, the raised cephalic portion with three ridges, of which the median one is short and weak, but the two outer ones are much stronger and have a shallow, almost S-shaped curve, posteriorly nearly reaching the outer limits of the fovea; this raised portion is reticulately wrinkled on its lateral surfaces.

Carapace longer than any of the metatarsi, equal to the tarsus and metatarsus of the second leg.

Sternum.—Apparently without sigilla and labium without spines or teeth.

Eyes.—Anterior row slightly procurved, posterior row recurved, wider than the anterior row; lateral eyes of anterior row transverse, of posterior row facing obliquely backwards; the median eyes of posterior row about the same distance apart as (or very slightly less distant than) the lateral eyes of anterior row; distance between anterior and posterior lateral eyes appreciably exceeding the long diameter of the latter.

Posterior median eye distant from posterior lateral eye a trifle less than its own diameter, about its own diameter from the antero-median eye, and more than its own diameter from the antero-lateral eye.

Pedipalps.—Stretched out in front the pedipalps are only a trifle shorter than the first leg; femur practically straight, expanded distally; patella slightly curved and about as long as the tibia of first leg; tibia swollen, convex on its outer surface, very slightly concave on the inner surface; bulb of palpal organ quite three-fourths as long as the spine, which is curved and slightly twisted, gradually tapering to a filament.

Legs.—First leg long and slender, the tarsus scopulate below (as also are the tarsi of all the legs), with four or five spines on the anterior side and six or seven on the posterior side; metatarsus without scopula, thickly spined at the sides of the ventral surface, the spines disposed obliquely, either singly or in pairs or in threes, no spines along the median line, or only an odd one proximally; tibia thickly spined over the whole ventral surfaces; patella with a few stout spines on the distal portion of the ventral surface.

Second leg resembling the first, but shorter. Third leg: the spines not so strongly developed, the patella having no strong spines, and only one or two on the tibia; the tibia and femur considerably reduced in length, but stouter. Fourth leg: slightly longer than the second, but hardly so long as the first; the tarsus with a number of rather thick spines at the sides of the ventral surface—about a dozen anteriorly and a smaller number posteriorly; patella without any very stout spines, and tibia with only one or two situated mid-ventrally; the femur, patella, and tibia of this leg much stouter than in legs one and two.

Measurements (in millimetres).—Total length 17·5. Length of carapace, 7; length of pedipalp, 24; length of first leg, 25·5; length of second leg, 23; length of third leg, 19; length of fourth leg, 25; tibia of pedipalp, 6·25; patella of pedipalp, 4·75; femur of pedipalp, 7·5.
